

# Springtime, Claude Monet

This activity has been designed as a starting point for looking, talking and doing together. The **Look** and **Think** activities should take 5 -10 minutes.

The **Do** activities might take longer depending on the task and how creative you are feeling!



**Springtime**

**Claude Monet (1840-1926)**

**1886**

**Oil on canvas**

**64.8 x 80.6 cm**

**PD.2-1953**



## Look

Relax and take your time to explore the painting.

What can you see?

How many different colours can you count?  
Do you notice anything unexpected?



## Think

Imagine you can step inside the picture and have a walk around. Sit on the grass. Climb one of the trees. Run around the space.

What did you discover on your adventure?



## Do

Explore colour in your own home, school, or garden with our [Springtime colour hunt](#) activity.

Pick a picture, or use the above. Make a colour chart with pencils of all the colours you can see. Take it with you and explore! Try and find things that match the colours on your chart to things around you.

Can you match the colours in the painting to things you find?



## Springtime, Claude Monet

Springtime was painted by Claude Monet in his garden in Giverny, France, on a beautiful spring day in 1886. It shows his 18 year old step daughter Suzanne Hoschede talking to his son Jean Monet.

The painting is a good example of the revolutionary painting technique that Monet and other Impressionist artists developed. Monet often worked outside in the open air, and so the paint was applied quickly to capture the changing effects of the sunlight. Monet described his interest in light and colour,

*'When you go out to paint, try to forget what object you have before you- a tree, a house, a field, or whatever. Merely think here is a square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow, and paint it just as it looks to you, the exact colour and shape, until you have your own naïve impression.'*

Monet experimented with contrasting and complementary colours to create different effects. In this painting the yellowy green of the grass is contrasted with the red and purple on the figure of Suzanne and with the purple shadows on the tree trunks. This emphasizes the brilliance of the spring light falling in shadows on the grass.